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# Air Force ready for 2005 BRAC

Staff Sqt. Todd Lopez Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense published in the Federal Register on Feb. 12 the criteria that will be used in selecting installations for the 2005 round of base realignment and closure.

Air Force Director of Installations, Environment and Logistics Nelson F. Gibbs spoke that same morning to the House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on military construction about the state of the Air Force's BRAC

"Air Force professionals at all levels have made great progress to prepare for BRAC 2005," Mr. Gibbs told the committee in his prepared testimony.

That preparation, Mr. Gibbs said, involved the creation of an Air Force office for basing and infrastructure analysis to act as the focal point for Air Force BRAC 2005 efforts. The major commands followed suit, creating their own offices to support the process, he said.

"Today, there are (more than) 150 full and part-time Air Force professionals engaged in preparing for BRAC 2005," Mr. Gibbs said.

Lessons learned from previous rounds of BRAC will help the Air Force better deal with property that may be affected by the BRAC 2005 round, Mr. Gibbs said.

"The Air Force has made significant progress in transitioning the installations identified for closure or realignment in previous rounds of BRAC," he said. "Turning to BRAC's past, the Air Force continues to work with local reuse authorities and other property recipients at each realigned and closed base from the four previous rounds of BRAC to transfer property."

Most importantly, Mr. Gibbs said, the Air Force will be better prepared through the BRAC 2005 process to deed property faster than in previous BRAC rounds.

The Air Force is currently in the process of disposing of more than 87,000 acres at 32 locations. Mr. Gibbs said.

He also told committee members that despite what may be said on the Internet, referring to a fake story that has been circulating for some weeks, no decisions have been made as to what bases will be closed or realigned.

"No one can know the department of the Air Force's basing structure requirements for the 21st century until the BRAC 2005 process is finished," Mr. Gibbs said. "(Air Force officials affirm) ... that regardless of what may have been published on the World Wide Web, there is no Air Force BRAC list."



## Ready to fly

Second Lt. Anta Plowden, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-06, does a preflight check. Class 04-06's assignment night is at 5 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Columbus Club. There will be free food and live entertainment. For more information, call 352-9220.

# Commander trades bird for star

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser **Public Affairs** 

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, has been nominated by the President of the United States to be promoted to brigadier general.

Colonel Schmidt, who has been the wing commander at Columbus AFB since August 2002, joins 35 other Air Force colonels to earn their first star.

As the 14th FTW commander, Colonel Schmidt leads the wing in conducting specialized undergradu-

ate pilot training for U.S. Air Force and 98,000 hours annually.

He is also responsible for base support and medical care for the wing's 2,700 people, an operations and maintenance budget of \$110 million, and capital assets and equipment exceeding \$740 million.

In addition, the wing supports seven associate units and provides essential contingency mission support for Air Education and Training Command, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Colonel Schmidt, who leaves and allied officers. The wing's 250 Columbus AFB in March, will aircraft fly more than 68,500 sorties replace Brig. Gen. David Stringer as Director of Logistics.

> Colonel Schmidt will be responsible for the logistics functions of aircraft and weapons maintenance, supply, transportation and contracting at 13 bases, and for conducting operations at the headquarters Logistics Directorate. Wing commander moves up

> Col. Stephen Wilson, 608th Air Operations Group commander, at Barksdale AFB La. will replace Colonel Schmidt as 14th FTW com-

T-1A Goal: 1458.0 hrs. Flown: 1363.3 hrs. T-37 Goal: 1427 Flown: 1089 T-38C Goal: 753 Flown: 782

Mission Report

As of Wednesday Flying hours: Monday to Tuesday: 6:30 a.m.-6:25 p.m.; Wednesday: 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday to Feb. 27: 6:30 a.m.-5:48 p.m. NEWS

# **BLAZE** Team pays tribute to Tuskegee Airmen

Columbus AFB is honoring 11 Tuskegee Airmen, 10 from Mississippi and one longterm Columbus resident, with a two-day event March 5 and March 6.

Highpoints of the event include a dedication of a display case with 10 model aircraft, each depicting one of the planes flown by the Tuskegee Airmen, static displays of vintage and modern aircraft, a medal presentation to one of the families of and many other activi-

"I am from the state of Mississippi myself and have done much research on the Tuskegee Airmen," said Clint Martin, creator of the 10 model Tuskegee Airmen aircraft. "My motivation for building the model airplanes stems from my knowledge of their accomplishments during era in which the airmen came from.

"The Tuskegee Airmen had to fight for the right to fly, fight to defend their country against enemies and prove to authorities that they were competent pilots."

The 10 Mississippi Tuskegee Airmen are: Lt. Leonelle Bonam, Lt. Col. Herbert Cater, Col. Oliver Dillon, Lt. Col. Walter Downs. Lt. John Hamilton, Lt. Wellington Irving, Lt.



Intricate model airplanes assembled by Clint Martin, creator of the 10 Tuskegee Airmen model aircraft, are located in 22 different museums across the country.

Quitman Walker and Lt. Col. Luke Weathers.

resident since the 1950s.

Eddie McLaurin, Capt. Edward Toppins, Lt. school of learning founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881, conducted primary Lt. Col. Alva Temple has been a Columbus flight training. Once a cadet completed primary training at Tuskegee's Moton Field, he On July 19, 1941, the Army Air Force was sent to nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field began a program in Alabama to train black for completion of flight training and for tran-Americans as military pilots. The Division of sition to combat type aircraft. The first class-Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed es of Tuskegee Airmen were trained to be

fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron, slated for combat duty in North Africa. Additional pilots were assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group, which flew combat along with the 99th Squadron from bases in Italy.

By the end of the war, 992 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee, 450 of whom were sent overseas for combat assignment. During the same period, approximately 150 of them lost their lives while in training or on combat flights.

"We are honoring the Tuskegee Airmen from Mississippi because their story of triumph in the face of adversity may serve as an inspiration to all regardless of race or ethnicity," said Capt. Averie Payton, Tuskegee Airmen project officer. "Their feats prove that our core values of Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do applied then just as they do today. Furthermore, the 'Red Tail Angels' lived up to these standards even in the face of racism, segregation and deprivation of resources to the future benefit of All Americans." (Courtesy of Columbus AFB Public Affairs

# Columbus AFB aids CAP in check pilot standardization course

Airman Cecilia Rodriguez Public Affairs

Columbus AFB hosted the Civil Air Patrol National Check Pilot Standardization Course Feb. 13 to Feb. 15.

received refresher training to become qualified in CAP aircraft such as C-172s and C-182s.

"We were very fortunate to have had Columbus AFB's support for our course," said Mike Hainsey, Mississippi Wing CAP director of emergency services. "The Civil Air Patrol is a volunteer organization, so members pay for everything themselves. Not only were they able to benefit bers from the convenient location of the Air Force base, but its facilities also played a big part in making the check pilot Air Force support," Mr. Hainsey said. course relatively inexpensive."

Columbus AFB provided the course attendants with low-cost accommodations such as lodging at the Magnolia

Inn and meals at the Cardinal Inn Dining Facility.

course," said 1st Lt. Andrew Landwer, base CAP liaison.

Thirty-five CAP volunteers attended the conference and eccived refresher training to become qualified in CAP air-"In addition to the use of services turn the SAC alert facility into a base of operations for the course and utilize the air field, even though it was closed."

CAP members were grateful for the efforts made by BLAZE Team mem-

"We're extremely appreciative of the "Thanks to Columbus AFB, we were provided the grounds for a safe, successful operation.'

The CAP is the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air CAP, call 434-2651.

Force. It is a volunteer, non-profit organization made up of "This is the first time Columbus AFB has sponsored the aviation-minded adult and cadet members committed to

serving the nation. AIR PAT

According to the Mississippi Wing CAP Web site, CAP senior program prospects must be at least 18 years old, U.S. citizens or legal resident non-citizens and should have no record of a felony conviction or serious misdemeanor.

Cadet program prospects must be at least 12 years old but no older than 18, unmarried, not on active duty military, U.S. citizens or legal resident non-citizens and should have no record of a felony conviction or serious misdemeanor.

For more information about the Mississippi Wing

# LES statements minus social security numbers may reduce identity theft

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — Leave and earning statements acting director of DFAS. The proposal "originated intercontrol of customers' personal pay information. for all servicemembers and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees will soon have periods." more identity theft protection.

Over the next several weeks, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will drop the first five digits of a person's Social Security number from all pay statements and checks to guard against identity theft.

nally and will be phased in over the next couple of pay

Reports of identity theft have substantially increased in recent years, according to the Federal Trade Commission, which monitors the issue.

This change applies to all hard copy leave and earning statements. It does not apply to electronic copies of state-"The changes apply to everyone," said Patrick Shine, ments found on myPay, the online system for access and

Five years ago, the number of identity theft complaints to the FTC was roughly 23,400. By 2001, the rate had more than tripled to about 86,200. Based on figures released in January, the number of complaints of identity theft nearly topped 215,000 for 2003. The Social Security Administration has also taken the same step of eliminating the first five Social Security numbers on the millions of checks it issues. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

#### Health fair

The medical and dental clinics sponsor a health fair at the exchange annex from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in honor of African-American History Month. The fair began Thursday and continues through Saturday.

#### IP Awards banquets

The 14th Operations Group is hosting its annual Instructor Pilot of the Year Banquet from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday at the Trotter Center in downtown Columbus. For more information, call Capt. Eric Zihmer at Ext.

#### Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the Camp Henry Pratt clean up at 8 a.m. Saturday. The camp staff provides lunch. To volunteer, call Ext.

#### **CAIB**

A Community Action Information Board meets at 2 p.m. Monday at the Columbus Club. The meeting is open to the public to discuss community issues and concerns. Fore more information, call Patsy Wood at Ext. 2790.

## History Luncheon

The MCC sponsors an African-American history luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Columbus Club with guest speaker Col. Michael Hoves, chief of Air Combat Command scheduling and aerial events division. Fore more information, call Capt. Charles Gilliam at Ext. 2829

#### Dorm dinner

A dorm dinner is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the chapel annex. Door prizes will be given away, and a bible study will follow at 6:30 p.m. for those who would like to attend. The menu is soups, stews and chili. Food donations may be dropped off at the chapel by 5 p.m.

## Spouse aircraft briefing

A spouse aircraft briefing is at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Phillips Auditorium. For more information, call Ext. 2431.

# **CATM** updates deployment weapons:

## M-16A2 rifle conversion supports mission overseas

Airman Cecilia Rodriguez Public Affairs

Columbus AFB began replacing 58 M-16A1 rifles with M-16A2 rifles Feb. 10 in an effort to better equip deploying servicemembers.

Master Sgt. James Smith and Staff Sgt. Jason Treadwell, 14th Security Forces Squadron, are the only two people completing the conversion process.

"We finished 18 conversions in two days," Sergeant Smith said. "The procedure is a little time consuming."

First, the security forces combat arms training and maintenance section receives kits containing the weapon parts. Then, the A1 parts are changed out with the A2 components. When the products are complete, the weapons are gauged, and finally test fired.

"The whole Air Force is making the A2 conversion," Sergeant Smith said. "It's very likely that our airmen will deploy with an Army unit, and the weapon conversion will allow servicemembers to share ammunition should they encounter live fire."

The difference between the A1 and A2 models is minimal, Sergeant



Staff Sqt. Jason Treadwell, 14th Security Forces Squadron, assembles an M-16 rifle. Security forces is converting 58 M-16A1 weapons into M-16A2 weapons.

Treadwell said. Both weapons fire from the semi-automatic position, but while the A1 is full automatic, the A2

16A2 is required. In fact, the M-16 training that airmen receive now is actually geared more toward the A2

BLAZE Team members have already begun to deploy with the M-16A2

"The weapon conversion provides No additional training for the M- Columbus AFB the opportunity to support the entire Aerospace Expeditionary Force," Sergeant Smith said. "We're doing our part to support the mission both at home and overseas.'

# Gas mask care proves important for proper fit

Staff Sgt. Jay Moreau 14th Civil Engineer Squadron

All personnel deploying to high threat areas are required to have a mask fit test accomplished prior to departure.

The following steps should ensure a successful mask fit test:

☐ Inspect the mask upon issue, every six months during peacetime and every seven days during wartime. To inspect the mask, use Columbus Air Force Base Visual Aide 10-3, MCU-2A/P Inspection Procedures or use AFH 32-4014 v-IV, the Air Force ATSO Guide.

Ensure that corrective actions are taken immediately; otherwise discrepancies may be forgotten and thus render the inspection useless. Annotate the inspection on the back of the yellow tag, DD Form 1574.

☐ Masks should be cleaned every time they are inspected. To clean the mask, reference CAFBVA 10-4, MCU-2A/P Cleaning Procedures. First,

remove the hood, head harness, face shield and filter canister (ensuring the filter doesn't get wet). Then prepare a solution of warm water and mild detergent. Immerse the mask in the solution and allow to soak for a few minutes. Then clean the entire mask with a soft

Be sure to clean under the inner part of the mask. Rinse the mask thoroughly in clean water. Wipe the hood and face shield with a damp cloth and allow it to dry.

To clean out the drinking tube, add a capful of bleach to a canteen full of water. Attach the drinking tube to the canteen cap and squeeze the canteen to force the bleach water solution through the drinking tube.

Use the same procedure and put two canteens full of clean water through the drinking tube. Allow the mask to air dry for at least 48 hours before storing it. Once the mask is dry, replace the hood, head harness, face shield and fil-

☐ To fit the mask, loosen all the straps on the head harness, then put on the mask. Start the tightening sequence by tugging on the middle straps, then the bottom straps and finally, the top

Ensure the square patch on the head harness is centered on the back of the head after each step in the tightening sequence. This is extremely important. Once this is accomplished, check the seal by covering the filter and sucking in. If the mask tightens to the face, then there is a good seal.

To take the mask off, loosen the bottom straps by flicking the buckle and pulling out on the gray part of the bottom straps. Then pull the mask away from the face and off of the head. The next time the mask is put on, just tighten the bottom straps and check the

For further information or questions, call the 14th CES Readiness Flight at Ext. 7313, Ext. 7371 or Ext. 7319.

## Silver Wings

# COMMENTARY

# Lessons from the African extended family system: It takes a village

Airman 1st Class Boto Best Public Affairs

An old slave proverb goes, "If you knock de nose, de eye will cry." In a nutshell, this means that if you hurt one part of the family, you hurt them all. Unlike many other traditions lost in the passage from Africa to America, the tradition of the African extended family system is one that not only survived but also thrived and still exists today. It thrived because in adverse circumstances, it becomes clearer that people need each other to survive.

In his book, "Before the Mayflower — A History of Black America," Lerone Bennett, Jr. describes the hierarchy of the slave community: "There was an

interesting and significant circle of elders who occupied a position on slave society roughly equivalent to that of the elders in West African society. Older slaves were most commonly called 'uncle' or aunt' and were revered and respected on almost all plantations."

The West African institutions that Bennett refers to uphold the creed that everyone is responsible for each other. The extended family system is made up of not just the nuclear family — mother, father and children — but aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, close friends of the family, and even those who cannot provide for themselves.

Aunties and uncles didn't have to be blood relatives — they could be just as close. Many of us have been raised by people who felt it their responsibility to help out when our own parents couldn't.

In the extended family system, elders play a very significant role. They are not just old people waiting to die. They keep society in order, and their opinion is highly respected. Their age, wisdom and strength give them credence as leaders in society. And for that, they are revered. Insulting them is almost as unforgivable a sin as insulting God.

Even Frederick Douglas, himself a former slave, wrote about this in his memoirs: "Among a people with so many trials to look in the face, there is not to be found among any people a more rigid enforcement of respect to elders."

See VILLAGE, Page 6

## STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of com-

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724.

People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at https://columbusweb and the main website at www.columbus.af.mil.

Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

## Base water certified and safe for consumption

**uestion:** Recently I had a troop referred to a taminants. These annual sampling results are required to amounts of bacterial content — more than 200 percent. I "Consumer Confidence Report." Columbus AFB have heard rumors in the past regarding the quality of the receives its drinking water from the city of Columbus. It water but, was assured that it was safe. Please clarify this is treated and supplied by the Columbus Water and Light

Here are the facts:

Services (BES) conducts monthly bacteriological sam-Federal, State and Air Force regulations.

required by the Safe Drinking Water Act; Environmental Protection Agency and Mississippi State Department of Health, for microbiological, organics and inorganic con-

drink the water on base due to abnormal ally by July 1, in the Silver Wings under the title "Consumer Confidence Report." Columbus AFB Company. We have not seen any positive bacteriological **nswer:** Now that's a scary question we need to samples collected by BES and analyzed by the state in put to rest fast. The water on base is safe to the last five years. Additionally, all the samples have drink. We test, I drink it, and my kids drink it. been well below regulatory limits for every contaminant. BES maintains state and base drinking water sampling Our 14 MDG Bioenvironmental Engineering results as well as previous Consumer Confidence Reports. These results and reports are available at the pling through the base water system and all samples are BES. If you would like to seem them just call Ext. analyzed by a state certified laboratory as required by 2284. So our water is and has been certified safe for a long time. My number one priority is the safety and ☐ BES also collects annual drinking water samples as security of everyone on this base. Thanks for pointing out a very bad misconception.

Col. Steve Schmidt 14th Flying Training Wing commander

## SILVER WINGS

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## Silver Wings Editorial Staff 14th FTW commander

Col. Steve Schmidt Chief, Public Affairs

Lt. Col. John Chandler **Editors** 

Airman 1st Class Boto Best Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

## **Key phone numbers**

Base Exchange

vil Engineer Service Desk	434-2856
vilian Personnel	434-2635
inic:	
Family Practice	434-2172
Appointment Desk	434-2273
After Hours Care	434-2273
olumbus Club	434-2489
ommissary	434-7106
nance	434-2706
ousing Maintenance	434-7370
spector General	
egal Office	434-7030
ilitary Equal Opportunity	434-2546
curity Forces	
noppette	434-6026
• •	

Feb. 20, 2004

# Chief of Staff Sight Picture

# **Character** — The courage to do the right thing

Gen. John Jumper Air Force Chief of Staff

ur Air Force has proud history of achievements that directly reflects the quality of people that make up the total Air Force team. At every base, wing and deployed site, our airmen rise to challenges every



day demonstrating their loyalty and dedication.

I am proud to be part of this prestigious team. But, am always dismayed when I learn of an airman who, as a result of a bad decision, faces disciplinary action.

I wonder if there was a way to help this person, or if someone sitting down with this airman could have prevented this situation. Because of this, I feel it is essential to reinforce the full meaning of our concepts of character and the standards our core values provide

Character comprises the emotional, intellectual and moral qualities that distinguish one group from another — and the judgment to discern them. Our core values

and the unique demands of military service under gird our Air Force character. These values — Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do endure as the fundamental standards of behavior of our Air Force team. But, character can be an elusive concept not readily apparent, as it encompasses so

The true foundation of character is not merely knowing the right thing to do, but also having a firm conviction and the courage to act upon such knowledge. This conviction requires solid moral fiber and ethical strength to do what is right even when no one is watching.

ur actions over time define our character, just as our character delineates our lasting reputation. When we make the wrong choices, both our character and our reputation are

Character can rapidly deteriorate when we fail to hold others and ourselves to the high standards our Air Force profession demands. The responsibility of enforcing core values does not fall solely to senior leaders and commanders. Every airman must embrace and reflect these values, both on and off duty. We must reflect these fundamental values in our daily conduct

and help develop those attitudes in others. If you see a fellow worker or friend cut corners and don't say anything, you are condoning what they are doing. Failing to correct or report instances where the rules are broken, selectively enforcing rules or turning a blind-eye to marginal behavior or performance can perpetuate negative attitudes that can infect

We are all responsible for each other and it is essential that we all share a collective sense of mission, values and culture. If we don't, we become part of the problem, and jeopardize the mission and the lives of our men and women. Every person in the Air Force must embrace our core values as the guiding light that drives what we do. I challenge each of you to apply this philosophy in your service to the Air Force and this great nation.

Building character is a lifelong journey.

emember — it is not just knowing the right thing to do; it is having the courage to do it. We have a responsibility to ourselves, the Air Force and our nation to maintain a team of unquestionable character.

# Columbus AFB — Remember to appreciate gifts of liberty, freedom

Carl Lisowski 14th Logistics Readiness

During the numerous years that I have been at Columbus AFB as a military member and then a civil servant, many things have shaped its history.

A new headquarters building, the entire base enclosed by a chain-link fence with barbed wire, more security forces and augmentees, tighter security at all entrances to the base, and new construction at the main gate for security police dogs to check trucks and cars for potential explosives. These are changes brought about by the times we now live

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks brought the need for change, from the attack in New York City on the Twin Towers; the loss of brave souls that crashed in the farm field in Pennsylvania; the men and women who were manning their desks at the Pentagon; and the fire fighters who died trying to rescue our fellow

These events created a sense of vulnerability to every single American in the largest cities or the smallest townships.

It no longer mattered if you were from the north or the south, the east or west — you still felt the pain when the towers fell, and for the thousands who died.

Each day we hear about more members of our military making the ultimate sacrifice around the world.

There is no way to forget the past and the pain so many felt and still feel today. At Columbus AFB, we are doing our part to prevent another disaster.

Many members of our military, and fellow members of the guard are taking positions on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq. Pilots trained here are dropping bombs and transporting men and materials in support of the war

People from around the country have come here to augment our security forces to enhance the protection of

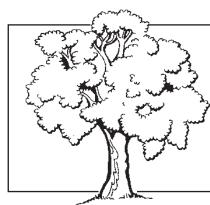
Columbus' assets and personnel.

We, the civilian partners of Columbus AFB, must understand that progress towards security and safety takes time.

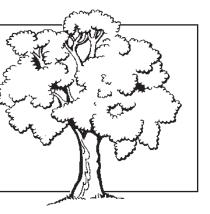
I don't like to wait in lines at the base gates more than most, but there is a time when even I say, "Mellow out." My having to wait to get on base is a minor price to pay for the protection security forces is providing.

They have one job, and that is to "protect and serve." We are the beneficiaries of their efforts.

Take time this year and look around at all the things we have and try to appreciate the gifts of liberty and freedom.



Many people are unaware of the opportunity to walk, run, bike or horseback ride along Columbus AFBís Timberlane Nature Trail. Along the trail, various wetlands, 🤉 trees and countless wildlife can be found. To reach the recreational area, follow Independence Ave. to the runway area. Signs found alongside the dirt road toward SAC Lake offer direction to the beginning of the trails. For more information, call Sarah Fafinski at Ext. 7958.



## Silver Wings Feb. 20, 2004

## VILLAGE (Continued from Page 4)

In the extended family, it really does take a village to raise a child. His upbringing is everybody's business. In African communities such as where I grew up, any grownup could discipline a child. And God forbid that that child should go home and report it to his parents. He's pretty much asking for more. It is a very, very close-knit community. The wisdom behind this culture is that if a child does well, he makes the whole community proud. But more importantly, he becomes an asset to that community.

Now think about it in terms of the military. Interestingly enough, those values can and have cross racial boundaries.

We as a military have our own village. We have elders and customs, and we signed up to be responsible for each other. We call our elders 'mentors,' instead of 'aunt' or 'uncle.' They keep our military family in order, and we respect them for it. We would never dream of insulting one of

We're family, and we're closer than we think. We all felt the pain when Osama Bin Laden 'knocked our nose' on Sept. 11, 2001. There was not a dry eye in America. Indeed, the whole world felt it and mourned. No matter what branch of the military you are in, every time CNN

reports a dead soldier, it's a knock on our nose and our eyes

As a diverse military, we have a unique opportunity to apply the values of the extended family system and to be an example to a world in which that very diversity has been the cause of so much bloodshed

In fact, we're not just a diverse military, but also a diverse country. So, to take it a step further, instead of saying "it takes a village," let's say, "It takes a nation."

(Editor's note: This is part three of a series in honor of African-American history month.)

# **African-American History Month Spotlight**



Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bachant 14th Medical Operations Squadron Hometown: Worcester, Mass.

#### What does African-American History Month mean to you?

What African-American Heritage Month means to me is that we get to celebrate the accomplishments of the African-American men and women who blazed the trail in order to make a better life for all of us today.

Often their accomplishments came at great personal sacrifice and sometimes, unfortunately, the ultimate sacrifice. People willingly chose to put themselves in harm's way in order to make the country we live in a better place.

We need to understand that this country became great because of their vision for a better way.

The Air Force presents all of its members with a unique opportunity, the opportunity to learn! Learn what those who came before us had to do in order to affect change.

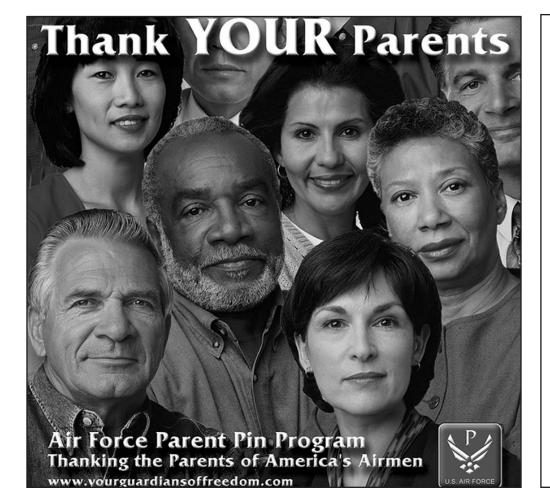
We are also presented with the opportunity to learn what African-American culture is about

Having been in the Air Force for 16 years and stationed numerous different places, it has given me the opportunity to experience and better understand cultures other than my own.

This in itself I believe has made me a better person, and the more I learn the better I can become.

This past Sunday during the 70's dance was a great chance for me to not only celebrate and learn about this extraordinary culture, but also relive some

I never once felt out of place. I felt welcomed, and I feel lucky for having been given the opportunity to better understand my fellow man.



# Air Force recruiter Master Sgt. Michael O'Toole Tech. Sgt. William Shuttleworth 2321C Hwy. 45N Columbus, MS 39705-1715 (662) 241-5811



10 Silver Wings Feb. 20, 2004 Silver Wings Feb. 20, 2004



Capt. Joseph Biedenbach Trenton, Mich F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.

2nd Lt. Jason Cinicola

KC-135, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Leesburg, Fla.



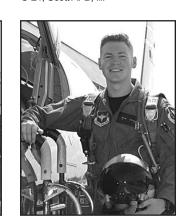
Capt. Carey Jones Chapel Hill, N.C. F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Robert Brawley Denver, Colo. F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Andrew Clark Toledo, Ohio C-21, Scott AFB, III.



2nd Lt. Ronald Knight 2nd Lt. David Marshall Ontario, Calif. San Antonio, Texas C-21, Andrews AFB, Md. A-10. Davis-Monthan AFB. Ariz.



2nd Lt. Shawn Conner Rimersburg, Pa. KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J.



2nd Lt. Jesse Newberry Littleton, Colo. C-17. Charleston AFB. S.C.

# SUPT Class 04-05 earns silver wings

**USAF** 

COLUMBUS AFB

today during a ceremony at the theater.

Twenty-five officers survived a year of training, earning the right to be an Air Force pilot.

The graduation speaker is Lt. Gen. Donald Lamontagne, Air University commander, Maxwell AFB, Ala. He is also the Air Education and Training

Randolph AFB, Texas. He ensures that Air Force needs are met in the areas of enlisted and officer professional military education and training.

Command director of education, with headquarters at

Students received their silver pilot's wings at today's ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

Capt. Carey Jones, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Kevin Roche, T-1, received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lts. Patrick Pearson. T-38 and Gia Thibodo, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Captain Jones, Lieutenant Roche and 2nd Lt. Fredrick Wilson, T-1, were named distinguished graduates.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a sixweek preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare stucareers as U.S. Air Force pilots. dents for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, sub-

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-05 graduates at 10 a.m. sonic T-37 Tweet. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying. Primary training takes about 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground

> training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 flying hours. After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced train-

ing in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track. Took 100 Years of Fing Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38 Talon, a tandem-seat, twinengine supersonic jet.

T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation.

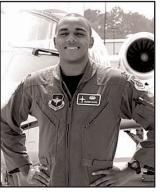
Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground events, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 flying hours.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, crosscountry flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions.

Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the flight simulator and 104 flying

Make Pilots This Good The class reunites on graduation day, when students receive the aeronautical rating of pilot and begin their

(Editor's note: The class's pilot partners are CJ's Pizza and Monograms



2nd Lt. Vaughn Brazil Cleveland, Ohio E-3, Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Warren Carroll Hoover, Ala T-38, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Cole Childers Siloam Springs, Ark. T-37, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Charissa DeLion Saline, Mich. KC-135, Kadena AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Kenneth Dixon Arden, N.C. C-5, Dover AFB, Del.



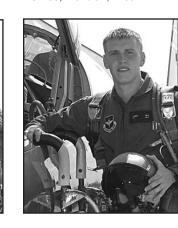
2nd Lt. James Duncan Slidell, La. (ANG) KC-135, Meridian, Miss.



2nd Lt. Kevin Olson Atlanta, Ga. (AFRC) C-130J, Keesler AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Patrick Pearson Poughkeepsie, N.Y. F-16. Luke AFB. Ariz.



2nd Lt. Scott Petz Faith, S.D. (ANG) F-16. Sioux Falls. S.D.



2nd Lt. Christopher Rieland Minneapolis Minn (AFRC) C-130, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.



2nd Lt. Kevin Roche Leesburg, Va. C-130, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.



2nd Lt. Nick Sammons Brandon Minn C-17, McChord AFB, Wash



2nd Lt. Joe Taylor Cairo III T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Gia Thibodo Shoreview. Minn. C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Michael Trujillo Plano Texas F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Fredrick Wilson Corona Calif C-21, Peterson AFB, Colo.

**C**OMMUNITY Silver Wings Silver Wings Feb. 20, 2004 **15** 

## AT THE CHAPEL

#### **Catholic**

#### **Sunday activities:**

9:15 a.m. — Mass

10:30 a.m. — CCD

5 p.m. — Confessions

5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

#### Wednesday

11:30 a.m. — Mass

#### **Protestant**

## Sunday activities:

9 a.m. — Sunday school 10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship

### 1 p.m. — Contemporary worship

#### Tuesday

Noon — Lunch and Bible study Wednesday

5:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bible study 7 p.m. — Choir rehearsal

For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

## AT THE MOVIES

All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the theater.

"Disney's Teacher's Pet" (PG, some mildly crude humor, 84 min.)

Animated.

#### Saturday

"Chasing Liberty" (PG-13, sexual content and brief nudity, 111 min.)

Starring: Mandy Moore and Matthew Goode.

#### Feb. 27

"Along Came Polly" (PG-13, sexual content, language, crude humor and some drug references, 90 min.)

Starring: Ben Stiller and Jennifer

For more information about movies, visit www.cafbgrapevine.com.

## CHANNEL 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

Call public affairs for more information at Ext. 7068.

#### Weekdays

9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Air Force Television News

Monday through Feb. 27 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

College Level Examination Program Tapes:

Humanities

# **F**AMILY SUPPORT



(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information, call Ext. 2790.)

Financial aid: A workshop on financial aid is from 11 a.m. to noon Tues. It provides information on scholarships and grants. Free applications for Federal Student Aid are available.

**Job fairs:** A workshop on how to prepare for job fairs and employment expos is from 10 to 11 a.m. March 3. A list of Web sites and upcoming job fairs will also be avail-

Transition assistance program: A training session for personnel within one year of retirement is from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 9. Topics include interview techniques and information on resumes, job searches and veterans' benefits.

Small business development: A workshop on starting one's own business is from 1 to 1:30 p.m. March 11.

Federal employment: A workshop on federal employment and how to apply is from 1:30 to 3 p.m. March 11.

Medical Transcriptionist: Registration is open for classes in medical transcription and terminology. Each course lasts about nine weeks. Pre-requisites apply.

**Scholarship:** The deadline to apply for the General Henry Arnold Education Grant Program scholarship is March 12. The scholarship is for family of Air Force active duty, retired and reservists on extended

Grants are awarded up to \$1,500. Applications are available at the family support center.

**Recipes needed:** The FSC is collecting favorite "quick and easy" recipes from base personnel to create a newcomers' cook-

Categories include appetizers, soups and salads, vegetables, main dishes, breads and

Drop off recipes with name, organization and phone number, or e-mail them to FSC@columbus.af.mil



Boy scouts from Troop 52 earn their archery merit badges at Camp Henry Pratt. To join the boy scouts, call Wayne Boswell at Ext. 2611.

# BASE Notes



Bible study: A ladies' Bible study is at 6:30 p.m. Mondays.

A midweek Bible study is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel annex. The focus of the study is the video series "The Measure of Spiritual Maturity," and dinner is provided.

A Bible study is held at noon Tuesdays in the chapel annex. The focus of the study is the "Fruit of the Spirit" Bible series: Building Healthy Relationships.

A teen Bible study is held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel annex for ages 12 to 19. "Crossroads" is the focus of the study, and dinner is provided. For more information, call Ext. 2500.

**Scout troop:** Troop 52 meets at 6 p.m. Tuesdays in the personnel building, room 111. For more information or to join the Boy Scouts, call Wayne Boswel at Ext. 2611 or Greg Johnson at Ext. 7871.

**Retiree dining privileges:** Retirees are Facility for all meals. The cost is standard rate for retirees, which is the cost of food games and lots of fun through the night. plus surcharge.

unable to accept any turn-ins until noti- Ext. 2666.

fied by the Defense Reutilization Marketing Organization. People are asked to hold on to any turn-in items until given further notice. For more information, call base supply receiving at Ext. 7233.

AFSA lunch: Chapter 651 of the Air Force Sergeants' Association is having a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. March 4 at the Columbus Club

All Air Force enlisted retirees are invited to support the chapter. For more information, call 245-5472.

OSC social: The next Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club social is at 6:30 p.m. March 9 at the Columbus Club. The spouses of the 37th Flying Training Squadron are hosting the event.

The program features an Irish Pub Bunko, baked potato and a salad bar. The fee is \$9.50 and club members receive a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. Make reservations by March 2 at 434-8723 or e-mail airtex@yahoo.com

Relay for Life: The Lowndes County Relay For Life will be 12-hours long, starting at 6 p.m. April 16 and ending at 6 a.m. April 17. Teams of eight to 15 people camp out and take turns walking around a track. Each team is asked to have a representative authorized to use the Cardinal Inn Dining on the track at all times during the event.

This is an event with live entertainment,

For more information or If you are interested in participating or being a team cap-Base Supply turn-ins: Base supply is tain for your unit, call 1st Lt. Ariol Paz at

# SERVICES SNAPSHOTS

# Services provides base with variety of entertainment

Catfish buffet: The Columbus Club offers an all-you- Maxwell AFB for participants. Participants must be memis \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers.

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Customers may still order off the a la carte menu. Call

Club card drawings: The Landing Lounge and enlisted lounge offer a club card drawing for cash every Friday between 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Card holders must be pre- March 15. sent to win. Call Ext. 2490.

Saturday. Call Ext. 7450.

game are played. There must be a minimum of ten players to offer this program. Cards are \$1 each for the two \$25 games and \$1.50 for the \$50 jackpot game. Call Ext. 2490.

Crafts classes: The skills development center offers adult and youth classes Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Make a wooden patchwork heart hanging Tuesday for \$15 in the adult class. In the youth class, make a red, white and blue wooden tree Wednesday for \$5. Participants must register at least four days in advance in order for supplies to be available. To register, call Ext. 7836.

Silver Star Casino trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip today. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation and \$15 in coins. The bus leaves the community center parking lot at 5:30 p.m. The next trip is March 19. For reservations, call Ext. 7861.

2004 Teen Aviation Camp: The youth center is accepting applications until Saturday for the Teen Aviation Camp June 5 to June 11 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. The program is open to high school sophomores and juniors who would like to explore the Academy as a possible college choice. Applicants will participate in a wide variety of outdoor and classroom activities in the camp including piloting an aircraft, swimming and horseback riding. Application forms are available at the youth center. Final selections will be announced by April 9. Call Ext.

Soul food buffet: The Columbus Club offers a soul food buffet Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5.95 for club members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2490.

**Keystone Club:** The youth center offers this program at 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The Keystone Club focuses on building productive teens, leaders and citizens. Other areas of focus are education, leadership, life skills and many other related topics. As a Keystone Club member, there will be travel opportunities. Call Ext. 2504.

**2004 chess tournament:** The 2004 chess tournament for active-duty personnel is March 13 to March 14 at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Transportation is provided to and from

can-eat catfish buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. Cost bers of the U. S. Chess Federation to compete in this rated ages 8 to 13 may register for the Jazz II classes Tuesdays; tournament. To register, call Ext. 7450.

> Program is offering a special theater camp for ages 14 to 18. The camp is held in Missoula, Mont., July 26 to July 30. Submit camp applications to the youth center by

Thirty-two chosen teens participate in a week full of specialty classes in voice, dance, stage presence, acting, **Dorm World party:** The community center hosts a arts and crafts, waterfront activities and campfires. All Dorm World party at the enlisted lounge at 9 p.m. transportation to and from Montana is provided, as well as all meals, lodging and activities.

The rules and entry forms are placed on the Services Midday bingo: The Columbus Club offers bingo at Family Members Program Agency Web site at noon Mondays. Two \$25 games and one \$50 progressive http://www-p.afsv.af.mil/FMP/SpecProj.htm. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

tap, jazz and ballet. Ages 5 to 7 may register for the nights. Call Ext. 2489.

preparatory dance classes offered Mondays at 4:30 p.m. ages 3 to 4 may register for the creative movement classes at 4:30 p.m. Thursdays; and adults may register for the Theater camp: The Air Force Community Center jazz dance classes at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. Call Ext.

> **Drop-in care available:** The child development center offers drop-in care Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$3 per hour. To make reservations, call

> Canoe trip: Outdoor recreation offers a trip to the Luxapalila River March 13. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation, lunch and canoe rental. Call Ext.

Play NTN games: The enlisted lounge now offers free NTN games for members and \$2 for two hours for non-**Dance classes:** The youth center offers dance classes in members. The lounge is open Friday and Saturday



## Surfing the net

Karin Tyree uses one of the computers at the base library. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday to Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Ext. 2934. People must register with the library to use its computers and must sign in at the front desk every time they surf the internet.

AROUND TOWN

Garage sale: A fundraiser garage sale for team bronc riding, bareback riding, goat tying, steer wrestling,

Camp expo: Parents and Kids Magazine's 11th Annual Camp and Education Connection is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Northpark Mall in Jackson, Miss. Parents and children may sample more than 30 different overnight, day, special needs and educational camps.

Camps offering sports, arts, music, outdoor survival, dance, games, swimming and equestrian training will be represented. Admission is free, and there are door prizes and giveaways throughout the day. For more information, call (601) 366-0901.

**Rodeo:** The National Little Britches Rodeo Association hosts its youth rodeo from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at the Mississippi Horse Park in Starkville, Miss. Cowboys and girls compete for prizes such as saddles, buckles, gift certificates and college scholarships. Events include: breakaway roping, tie-down roping, barrel racing, pole bending, saddle

Destination Imagination is from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at team roping, a trail course, a flag race, goat tail untying and 149 Brick Yard Road, the old dance studio by "Doors and bull riding. Tickets are \$5 at the gate. Children 5 and under 9762. are free. For more information, call (662) 325-0508.

> Baptist Memorial volunteers: Baptist Memorial Hospice begins a new series of volunteer training sessions at 9:30 a.m. Saturday on the third floor solarium of Baptist Golden Triangle's Willowbrook building. The remaining two sessions are at 3 p.m. Thursday and March 4. For more information, call Hospice at (662) 243-1173.

**Script reading:** A staged reading of "The New Que" by Harrison Key is at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Feb. 27 at McComas Hall Lab Theater on the Mississippi State University campus. The event will allow audiences to watch the developmental process of a new script. Admission is \$2. For more information, call (662) 325-2323.

**Health fair:** Mississippi University for Women hosts its (662) 329-3533. annual health fair from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. March 3 on the second floor of the Hogarth building on the MUW campus.

Elevators are available, and most health screenings are free. For more information, call Barbara Daniel at (662) 328-

**Support groups:** A Lupus support group meets at 6 p.m. March 5 on the third floor solarium of the Baptist Golden Triangle Willowbrook Building. For more information, call Rashell Hopkins at (662) 327-2784

A head injury support group meets at 7 p.m. March 9 at the Baptist Memorial Hopsital's boardroom. For more information, call (662) 327-4614.

**Help needed:** Joe Cook Elementary seeks volunteers for art activities, center time and one-on-one tutoring. For more information, call Mary McQuaig @ 434-0246.

**Antebellum tours:** The Columbus Historic Foundation sponsors antebellum home tours daily. For more information, visit the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center, or call

For more event listings, visit www.columbus-ms.org.

# BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.  Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.  Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not resubmit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.  Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.					
Type of advertisement (circle one): Home	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Yard sales	Pets	
Print advertisement:					
Name:					
Home Telephone #:					
Please let us know what you think of the Silver Ware you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ What would you like to see more of in the newspar If you would like to give any other suggestions, p	No □ nper? News □	1			

#### **S**PORTS Silver Wings Feb. 20, 2004

## **SHORTS**

#### Spring adult soccer

Sign-ups are being accepted for the spring adult soccer league that begins Sunday. The games are held Sunday afternoons. The season is approximately eight weeks long with full FIFA regulation matches. The league is open to all interested adult players of any ability. Sign ups are being accepted via the league web page at www.geocities. com/columbusfutbol

#### Spring youth soccer

Children ages 3 and older may register for spring youth soccer through Feb. 27. Cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. Participants must have a current physical on file or obtain one prior to the start of the season. A late fee of \$10 will be assessed after Feb. 27. Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

#### Caledonia sports

The Caledonia Sports Association is now accepting applications for umpires for the 2004 baseball and softball season. For more information, call 386-0336.

#### Skeet range

The skeeting and trap range has open shooting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The range is located next to the SAC Alert Facility. For more information, call Ext. 2507.

#### Spin class

Spin classes are at 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the fitness and sports center. The class is a one-hour self-paced training session of sprinting, resistance climbing and jogging all on a stationary bike. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

## Kindergym childcare

Kindergym is offered from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the fitness and sports center.

This program is for people with friends who can take turns watching each other's children while working out.

This is an opportunity for mutual motivation and free childcare. For more information, call Ext. 2772

## Nine-pin no-tap

A nine-pin no-tap tournament is scheduled every Friday except when cosmic no-tap is happening. It starts at 7 p.m. at the bowling center.

Sign up by 6:30 p.m. The center will pay for one place every four entries and there will be a men's and women's division. Entry is \$10 per person. For more information, call Jennie Hodges at 434-6723.

#### Personal trainers

Personal trainers are available at the fitness and sports center to spice up a workout routine or help a person get more out of their workout. For more information, call Ext. 2773.

#### Fitness 101

People who want to get in shape but aren't sure how to use all the fitness and sports center's machines can schedule a Fitness 101 class.

The center shows people how to find their target heart rate and use all of the equipment.

Classes are by appointment only. For more information, call Ext. 2772.



The Columbus AFB autocross event takes place Feb. 28 and Feb. 29 on the flightline.

# **Columbus AFB invites** drivers to test cars' limits

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser Public Affairs

Columbus AFB seeks drivers eager to test the limits of their vehicles to participate in the 2004 Sports Car Club of America autocross on the base's Feb. 29. flightline Feb. 28 and Feb. 29.

"This is a great opportunity for people to test the handling limits of their cars in a controlled and safe environment," said Brian Henderson, event coordi-

Autocross events are driving skill contests that emphasize a driver's ability and a car's handling characteristics. Drivers race a course designated by with a proper clamp down; no significant fluid traffic cones on a low hazard location, such as a leaks; and all the loose items inside are removed. parking lot or inactive airstrip. This course, set up on the end of the Columbus AFB flight line, will be a long and fast course with lots of sweeper-type corners and a limited number of tight spots.

"While speeds are no greater than those normally encountered in legal highway driving, the combination of concentration and car feedback creates an adrenaline pumping experience," Henderson said. "It is like being in a movie chase scene, only difference is you're holding onto the steering wheel instead of a box of popcorn."

The event is open to any on- or off-base drivers with full privilege driver's licenses and automo-

Licenses must have no restrictions such as "with licensed driver supervisor." All drivers under age 18, must have their parent or guardians sign a minor release form. Everyone who participates in the event must sign a waiver. These forms will be available upon registration the day of the event.

The cost for single day participation is \$20 for SCCA members and base personnel, and \$25 for nonmembers. To drive both days, the cost is \$35 for SCCA members and base personnel and \$45 for nonmembers.

Drivers are highly encouraged to attend the technical inspection at the Comfort Inn in Columbus

from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 27. Those with military ID cards can register and get their vehicles safety checked from 4 to 5 p.m. Feb. 27 at the SAC ramp or Comfort Inn. This will speed up the process and give everyone maximum track time on Feb. 28 and

Most automobiles are allowed, except those with a tendency to rollover. These include sports utility vehicles, vans and high-ride, four-wheel drives. Each vehicle must pass a safety inspection ensuring all lug nuts are in place; wheels aren't damaged; tires are properly inflated and are not damaged or have cord showing; batteries are secured in place Vehicle technical personnel will advise any new drivers on how to meet entry requirements. They have final say as to a vehicle's eligibility and advise on the correct competition class for the car.

For safety reasons, only Snell certified MA (motorcycle) or SA (race car), 1990 or newer helmets must be worn. A certified sticker must be present on the outside back of the helmet, or inside under the lining. There will be three loaner helmets

Off-base spectators can see the event for free by obtaining a special event pass from security forces at the visitor center outside Columbus AFB's main

"In short, the last autocross was a blast," said Derek Miller, 2003 autocross participant. "There are so many good things about the event that it's hard to just list one. I guess I like gaining confidence in my car's emergency handling performance and in increasing my ability to control a car at the extremes. The last autocross was expertly planned and executed. It was a lot of fun for everyone

To register for the event or for more information, log on to www.MSSCCA.org or call Henderson at